



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 739
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
<http://latchildrenscommission.org>**

Monday, December 15, 2014

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING (14-5760)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Call to Order (14-5678)

Present: Commissioner Genevra Berger, Commissioner Patricia Curry, Commissioner Ann E. Franzen, Commissioner Helen Kleinberg, Commissioner Liz Seipel, Commissioner Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW, Commissioner Martha Trevino-Powell, Vice Chair Sydney Kamlager and Vice Chair Carol O. Biondi

Excused: Commissioner Candace Cooper, Commissioner Dr. Sunny Kang, Commissioner Adrienne Konigar-Macklin and Commissioner Steven M. Olivas Esq.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Introductions of December 15, 2014 meeting attendees. (14-5679)

Self-introductions were made.

2. Approval of the December 15, 2014 Meeting Agenda. (14-5680)

On motion of Commissioner Adelina Sorkin, seconded by Commissioner Ann E. Franzen (Commissioners Cooper, Kang, Konigar-Macklin, and Olivas being absent), this item was approved.

II. REPORTS

3. Vice Chair's report for December 15, 2014 (14-5682)

No report was given.

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4. Department of Children and Family Services Director's Report for December 15, 2014 by Philip Browning, Director. (14-5683)

Director Browning reported on the following:

- **Director Browning attended an event at the airport where nearly one hundred children from the Compton and Wateridge area, ages six to ten were treated to a plane ride on a 777 aircraft. To replicate the experience of a trip to the North Pole, children were told to keep their window shades down until the plane flew over snow-covered mountains. After 45 minutes, the plane arrived at a United Airlines Hanger decorated with artwork to simulate a "winter wonderland" setting. The program has been going on for over 20 years and is largely made possible by the efforts of many volunteers.**
- **DCFS is continuing to follow up on psychotropic medications and the electronic interface that they are hoping to establish with the Court.**
- **Director Browning will be giving a presentation to the Quality and Productivity Commission at 11:00 a.m. today. The Quality and Productivity Commission is helping DCFS fund some work for which the State has not been willing to fund. The funds from the Quality and Productivity Commission would be used for psychotropic medication automation and electronic record automation with the Court to greater expedite existing processes. Every year DCFS is printing over 51 million documents that are being sent to the Court, when it could be presented on an automated interface. It is estimated that this system will pay for itself in one year.**
- **The State is coming up with a new automated system; however, it will not be operational until 2020. Despite this, DCFS is continuing to work on items to improve Los Angeles' Operations. The DCFS IT manager has been working on pulling together a number of automated initiatives.**
- **Cornelia Funke is a renowned children's author, prior social worker, and is really involved in the community. The Cornelia Funke Triumph award will be presented to a number of outstanding Social Workers on Wednesday, December 18, 2014 at the Youth Welcome Center and Child Welcome Center from 6-8 p.m. A similar ceremony took place in the summer, where Ms. Funke identified seven individuals from a group of nominations submitted by DCFS. Each awardee received a trip to a destination of their choice, with their salary paid while on vacation. This recognition program was established by Cornelia Funke, Dr. Astrid**

Heger, and former Supervisor Gloria Molina. Additional information is available on the LA Kids website for those interested in attending.

- The Annual Report was sent out by DCFS last week. A picture of the Commission is included in the report in recognition of their 30 year anniversary.
- Director Browning recognized Helen Kleinberg for her 30 plus years as a member of the Commission. He presented her with an award to pay tribute to her passion and commitment to children and families.
- Vice Chair Biondi announced that today is Sylvia Drew Ivie's last day with the Commission. Ms. Ivie has accepted a position as the Mental Health Deputy for Supervisor Sheila Kuehl.

In response to questions posed by the Commissioners, Director Browning responded:

- A concern was raised regarding the Cornelia Funke Triumph award, since it is against policy for government employees to accept gifts of such magnitude. Director Browning responded said that the award was vetted with county counsel and cleared. Director Browning stated that the expenditure was solely funded by private funds and included that Cornelia Funke has done a lot to improve the conditions of the Youth Welcome Center and the Child Welcome Center.

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Cooper, Kang, Konigar-Macklin, and Olivas being absent), the Commission accepted Director Browning's report.

III. PRESENTATIONS

5. Panel Presentation on the Probation After Care Program.

- Pamela Gandara-Gibson, Director, Division of Pupil Services Educational Programs, Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE)
- David Mitchell, Bureau Chief for Supervisorial District 1, Los Angeles County Probation Department
- Margarita Perez, Assistant Chief of Field Services, Los Angeles County Probation Department
- Raymond Perry, Medical Director of Juvenile Court Health Services, Los Angeles County Department of Health Services
- Karen Streich, Ph.D. Mental Health Clinical Program Manager III,

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (14-5689)

- **The Early Intervention Diversion Program (Program) is a pilot program that was launched in mid-November. The goal of the program is to reduce the number of minors entering the juvenile justice system through identifying, assessing, and providing competence of services that address the needs of these first time offenders. Services provided by this program are inclusive to both the child and his or her family members in the form of mental health services, substance abuse, and educational services. At this time, the program is restricted to only the First Supervisorial District.**
- **Six minors have since been referred to this program; to be eligible, individuals must be first time offenders under the age of 18 and come to the staff's attention not as a result of a serious offense; they must be eligible under Section 652 of the Welfare and Institution Code; Individuals cannot have been under informal supervision in the past, and their risks and needs cannot take more than one year to address. Many children fit this profile. Within the first month of commencement, 80 youth from the First Supervisorial District were determined to be eligible.**
- **When minors are identified as eligible, the team meets with the youth and their family as a means of orientation. Each minor is provided with a comprehensive psychosocial assessment and are advised of services that typically are not provided to this type of population.**
- **Case plans are developed as a result of these comprehensive psychosocial assessments. Whether candidates successfully complete their program or not, the District Attorney office has agreed to not use any of the information gleaned from this program in any future court proceedings. If a candidate is found to be successful through the services and the parents adhere to the case plan, the case is never filed with the District Attorney and the child does not hold a record.**
- **The six month program has an option to extend three additional months in scenarios where the child is deemed unsuccessful and in need of additional programming. At the end of the 9 months, Probation has the ability either to close the case, or to refer the child to the District Attorney's office in cases where that would be appropriate.**
- **The team aims to service 100 youth during the first year of the pilot program. Tracking data will be gathered to vet if the team was successful in accomplishing its goals and will be used to refine the program's outcomes. Ultimately, the team wishes to expand this level of**

programming countywide and identify providers in each district with the capacity to serve this population. The team is working with the CEO to develop a study on the program to identify outcome measures every 6 months to determine effectiveness in the areas of recidivism and school attendance.

In response to questions posed by the Commission, the Probation After Care Panel responded:

- The First Supervisorial District is Supervisor Hilda L. Solis' district and reigns from the Boyle Heights / East Los Angeles area and spans directly east through El Monte, Pico Rivera, toward Pomona.
- When a youth is arrested, the Police Department would file and refer cases directly with the District Attorney. Currently, the Probation Department handles these scenarios. Probation has the option to either divert the cases or refer them to the District Attorney. This pilot program deals specifically with these diversion cases. Legally, there are certain offenses that need to be filed with the District Attorney. There are sorters, Investigators, and Supervision Deputies in 9 different areas of the County who assess and determine the best intervention for each youth. The prototypical diversion scenario has comprehensive services at the front end.
- The program was developed from the leadership of the First Supervisorial District in collaboration with the CEO, District Attorney, Public Defender and County Counsel. The pilot is a one year program funded by the First District in the amount of \$864,000. This budget is greatly aided by built-in incentives, such as transportation vouchers and \$374,000 of the total funding is specifically allocated for services for the youth.
- As part of the Welfare and Institution Code, the team cannot legally continue Probation supervision beyond the nine-month time frame. In observance of this time limitation, it is the team's goal to link the youth and their families with the services they are going to continue to need before this deadline. Probation has access to gang reduction services and implement Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA), Building a Lifetime of Opportunities for Men (BLOOM), and Coalition for Responsible Community Development (CRCD) for their high risk and high needs children.

- Also school-based deputies work with children as early as sixth grade. When cases are terminated, mental health services can be continued if the youth is Medi-Cal eligible. Leveraging resources for the youth is a high priority for the team. During the After Care program, the team seeks to identify all eligible resources for family e.g., MHSA or Medi-Cal.
- Crossover kids remain a large issue for this program. Currently there is a mechanism that terminates jurisdictions so children aged 17.5 and below can be sent back to DCFS assuming their delinquency issues have been resolved. The program is able to step these children down to group homes. This program invites DCFS to be part of the Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) process. There are 20 kids who are a part of this dual supervision model. Children over 17.6 years of age can be eligible for foster care services until their 21st birthday.
- While at camp, certificates of completion are issued to special education students that are not on a diploma track or do not qualify for GED. If they do not earn a GED while at camp, the program gets them on the right track when being assimilated back into the school system. Delays are observed in matching these special education students with the right school. This is the large issue when it comes to enrollment.
- There is an extensive review process for putting children on psychotropic medication. An outside group of psychiatrists who are not the prescribing psychiatrists review placing children on medication regimens. Prescribing psychotropic medication is not taken lightly and is closely monitored.
- Probation officers cannot make the children medication compliant once they go out into the community. The MAYSI-2 is implemented as a preliminary screening tool for all incoming youth; Every single child is assessed by a mental health professional comprehensively.
- Nursing education is provided in group settings at camps. Prior to entry, all youth are being tested for STD's. Over the last year 8-13 percent of the youth tested positive for chlamydia and gonorrhea. Condoms are distributed to those who leave the camp. A Nurse Educator has been recently hired and they are looking into standardizing a structured reproductive health education program for the camps.

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- **Sexual orientation, LGBT, and commercial sex trafficking of children training has been given to all camp health staff. LACOE has added the LBGTQ and transgender language in their policies for staff to follow.**

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Cooper, Kang, Konigar-Macklin, and Olivas being absent), the Commission accepted the Probation After Care Panel's report.

Attachments: [SEE SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)
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IV. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

6. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (14-5684)

There were none.

Announcements

7. Announcements for the meeting of December 15, 2014. (14-5685)

Vice Chair Biondi announced the following:

- **The new camp to replace Camp Kilpatrick, is moving along well; They have four planning committees in the areas of data, education, staff training, and programming. The design builder has been selected and everything will be done in a small group model. The staff ratio will be 6:1. There are many advocates on each of the committees which will hopefully enhance the youth's experience in camp.**

Vice Chair Biondi introduced Monica Garcia who was instrumental in the planning for the After Care program pilot in Supervisor Molina's District.

Public Comment

8. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (14-5686)

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

Adjournment

9. Adjournment of the meeting of December 15, 2014. (14-5687)

The meeting adjourned at 11:41 a.m.